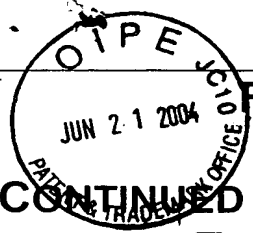


RCE BFW



REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/640,409
Filing Date	August 17, 2001
First Named Inventor	John Andrew Aiken Jr.
Group Art Unit	2141
Examiner Name	Le Hien Luu
Attorney Docket Number	5577-205

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See instruction Sheet for RCE's (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
 - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on April 29, 2004.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 09-0461
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. § § 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
- d. ☒ If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A., P. O. Box 37428, Raleigh, North Carolina 27627,
Telephone: (919) 854-1400, Facsimile: (919) 854-1401, Customer No. 20792

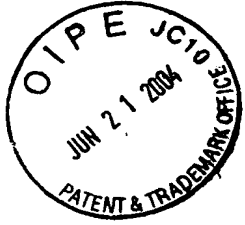
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Timothy J. O'Sullivan	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,632
Signature		Date	June 18, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Traci A. Brown	Date	June 18, 2004
Signature		Date	June 18, 2004



Attorney's Docket No. 5577-205

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Aiken, Jr., et al.

Group Art Unit: 2141

Serial No.: 09/640,409

Confirmation No.: 5260

Filed: August 17, 2000

Examiner: Le Hien Luu

For: **METHODS, SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS
FOR WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION**

Date: June 18, 2004

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants provide the present Amendment in response to the Notice of Allowance dated March 19, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 15 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.